PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 05788.0182

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Tony Brown et al.	)	Group Art Unit:
	)	
Serial No.: Unassigned	)	Examiner:
	)	
Filed: September 25, 2001	)	
	)	
For: WATER-RESISTANT CABLE	)	

being a Continuation of PCT International Application No. PCT/EP00/02516 filed March 22, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before examining this application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, before line 3, insert a new paragraph as follows:

--Cross References to Related Applications

This application is a continuation of International Application No. PCT/EP00/02516, filed March 22, 2000, and claims the priority of European Patent Application No. 99106042.7, filed March 25, 1999, and the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/127,582, filed April 2, 1999, the contents of each of which are incorporated herein by reference.--

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Page 25, line 1, change "CLAIMS" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--.

Please cancel claims 1-13 without prejudice or disclaimer and substitute new claims 14-25 therefor as follows:

14. (New) An optical fibre cable comprising:

an inner tube in which is loosely housed at least one tube in which is inserted at least one optical fibre, comprising

a mixture of powders comprising

- a first fraction of water-mediated expanding powder, and

- a second fraction of an inert powder with a preset particle size, less than that of said water-mediated expanding powder,

being inserted into said at least one tube, and

a fluid stopper being inserted in a space between said at least one tube and said inner tube.

15. (New) An optical fibre cable according to Claim 14, wherein said fraction of water-mediated expanding powder is between 40% and 80% by weight of said mixture.

16. (New) An optical fibre cable according to Claim 14, wherein said preset particle diameter of said inert powder is such that at least 90% by weight of said inert powder is less than 40 μm in diameter.

17. (New) An optical fibre cable according to Claim 14, wherein said inert powder is talc, graphite, molybdenum disulphide or PTFE in powder form.

18. (New) An optical fibre cable according to Claim 17, wherein said inert powder is talc.

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19. (New) An optical fibre cable according to Claim 14, wherein said water-mediated expanding powder is poly(sodium acrylate).

20. (New) An optical fibre cable according to Claim 14, wherein said water-mediated expanding powder has a particle diameter such that at least 90% by weight of said inert powder is less than 80 µm in diameter.

21. (New) An optical fibre cable according to Claim 14, wherein said at least one tube has an inside diameter of less than 1.7 mm.

22. (New) An optical fibre cable according to Claim 14, wherein said fluid stopper is a silicone stopper fluid.

23. (New) An optical fiber cable according to Claim 22, wherein said fluid stopper comprises a polysiloxane.

24. (New) An optical fiber cable according to Claim 23, wherein said fluid stopper comprises polydimethlsiloxane thickened with colloidal silica.

25. (New) An optical fiber cable according to Claim 14, wherein said tubes are made of a mixture comprising an ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer.

REMARKS

In this Preliminary Amendment, the claims have been amended to conform them to the article 34 amendment filed in PCT/EP00/02516 and to customary U.S. practice.

Claims 14-25 are pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 25, 2001

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